ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1964

R. P. Saunders Ltd., Printers, Huntingdon

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT

ON THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1964

To the Huntingdon Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my seventh Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

The District lies mainly in the west centre of Huntingdonshire; extending 13 miles to the west and 10 miles north of the County Town. It is made up of a large number of villages, and the population are mostly engaged in agriculture and its associated industries. There are several large Airfields, and many British and American Air Force Personnel and their families are resident in the area.

The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population to be 15,050, a gain of 430 over the previous year.

There were 313 live births during the year, giving a crude birth rate of 20.8 per thousand population. When adjusted this gives a rate of 25.2 births per thousand population, which is considerably above the national rate of 18.4 per thousand. One hundred and two deaths occurred during the year, 52 being males and 50 females. The crude death rate is 6.8 per thousand and the adjusted rate 10.9 per thousand, which is below the national rate of 11.3.

There were 127 cases of Measles during the year, most cases occurring in July and December. Only 4 cases of Whooping Cough occurred.

Three outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred during the year. Two small outbreaks involving in all seven persons occurred amongst R.A.F. personnel at Brampton, and the third was a large outbreak of possible Food Poisoning amongst the U.S.A.F. personnel at Alconbury. 174 persons were affected in all, of whom 156 lived in the District. Full investigations were made, but no particular food could be pin-pointed as the probable

cause, neither was any causative organism found as the result of the examination of many specimens.

The Council are to be congratulated upon the way that they are pressing forward with schemes to sewer the District. The Stukeley's scheme is at present waiting for the result of an enquiry which will be held early in 1965. Schemes to sewer Great Gidding, and Ellington, Easton and Spaldwick are also under consideration.

It is with great pleasure that I here record that during the year Coun. J. H. Moss, M.B.E., completed 50 years' continuous service as a Member of the Council. He attended his first Council meeting on 16th May, 1914.

He was Chairman of the Council for 38 years, and Chairman of the Public Health Committee until June of the present year, having served in this capacity since the Public Health Committee was formed on the present Committee system.

In concluding, I wish to thank the Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff, and my Professional Colleagues in the District for all the help that they have given me during the past year.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area, in acres	69,937
Estimated Population (mid-1964)	15,050
Density of Population per acre	0.22
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1964	3,577
Number of Inhabited Houses, excluding Air Ministry ...	2,785
Rateable Value, 31-12-64	£352,694
Product of Penny Rate, 1964	£1,400

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	
Number	313
Rate per 1,000 population	20.8
Illegitimate Live Birth per cent. of total live births ...	7.3
Stillbirths	
Number	1
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	3.2
Total Live and Still Births	314
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	7
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...	22.4
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	16.0
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	6.8

INFANT DEATHS

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Number of Deaths	6	8	9	6	4	7
Death Rates of Infants per 1,000 live births	23	33·5	30·9	18·3	15·3	22·4

Deaths from Cancer (total)	19
Cancer of Lung or Bronchus	4
Cancer of the Stomach	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	21
Other Heart Disease	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
All Other Accidents	2

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales : —

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live births	Per 1,000 Total births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Huntingdon Rural	20·8	25·2	6·8	10·9	22·4	3·2
England & Wales	—	18·4	—	11·3	20·0	16·3

Comparability factor for births, 1·21 and for deaths, 1·61.

The Comparability factors shown under the table of birth and death rates are supplied by the Registrar General. When our rates are multiplied by these figures they are comparable with the national figures, or with the adjusted rates of anywhere else in the country. In issuing the factors, allowance is made for any unusual distribution of age groups in the population—for instance, a large number of Air Force personnel being resident.

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar General's figures) :—

	Causes of Death	M.	F.	Totals
	All causes	52	50	102
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	2	—	2
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	4	—	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	5	2	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	1	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system... ...	4	9	13
18.	Coronary disease, angina	13	8	21
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
20.	Other heart diseases	3	5	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
22.	Influenza	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	3	8	11
24.	Bronchitis	2	—	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	2	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	5	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34.	All other accidents	1	1	2
35.	Suicide	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1964 :—

Disease	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	1	1	1
Measles	127	1	15	17	13	10	59	8	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	163	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	137	7	2	—	1	—
Jaundice	6	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	—
Encephalitis (post infectious)	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

P. V. CANT.

New Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough.

Peterborough 68010.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

MONTAGU HOUSE,
HUNTINGDON.

SEWERS

The villages of Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Brampton, Sawtry, Conington and Upwood have new sewers and sewage disposal works.

HOUSING

Number of houses in the district at the end of 1963	3,457
Number of new houses constructed during 1964	120
Number of houses demolished or closed during 1964 ...	43
Number of houses in the district at the end of 1964 ...	3,577

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

No. of houses with W.C's	2,896
Number of houses with pail closets	681
Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses	156
Number of W.C.'s newly constructed for old properties ...	42
Number of W.C. conversions grant aided (Sec. 47 P.H.A. 1936)	Nil

DUSTBINS

Number of houses with dustbins	2,896
Number of new bins provided during the year	120

SCAVENGING

Details of Collection

Frequency—Night soil ... ... Weekly
Dry refuse ... ... Part weekly — part fortnightly

Transport and No. of men ... ... 2 vehicles, 6 men

Whole area is covered.

Particulars of service(s)—

Unburnable refuse collection and night soil collection.

Details of disposal arrangements—

Controlled tipping. Night soil to land and Alconbury Sewage works.

Development required—

None.

Complaints received re non-removal	31
No. of bins emptied	3,193
No. of pail closets emptied	266

REFUSE COLLECTION

Consideration was given to the possibility of introducing a paper sack collection throughout the district. Following a detailed report the Council decided not to adopt this method, but did not rule out entirely the possibility of a review of the question in the future.

DRAINS

New drains tested	172
Existing drains inspected	103
Existing drains repaired or reconstructed	61

PROPOSED SEWERAGE AT THE STUKELEYS

The Council were advised that an inquiry into the scheme by a Ministry of Housing and Local Government Engineering Inspector would be held in the early part of 1965.

PROPOSED GREAT GIDDING SEWERAGE SCHEME

The negotiation for land for siting the proposed sewage works is now in the hands of the District Valuer. The Parish Council have considered and accepted the proposed scheme as a whole.

PROPOSED ELLINGTON, EASTON AND SPALDWICK SEWERAGE SCHEME

The proposals were submitted to the Parish Councils for observations, and negotiations opened for the acquisition of land for pumping stations and sewage works.

SEWERS AT BRAMPTON

Following investigations into the infiltration of surface water into certain lengths of sewers at West End, The Green, High Street and Grove Lane, Brampton, it was found necessary to open, inspect and renew some of the sewer pipes. This work was carried out during the year, but the effect of it could not be gauged by the end of the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

No. of disposal works for villages	4
No. of disposal works for Council Houses	3
No. of cesspools abolished	2

SHOPS, OFFICES AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

No. of offices registered during 1964			14
No. of retail shops registered during 1964			22
No. of wholesale shops, warehouses registered during 1964			2
No. of catering establishments registered during 1964 ...			9
No. of fuel storage depots registered during 1964			Nil
Total No. of premises registered during 1964			47
	Males	*Females*	
Total No. of persons employed in registered premises	121	130	251

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No. of licences in force December, 1964 (Multiple Sites) ...	11
No. of caravans on these sites	152
No. of licences for single caravans	25
Estimated No. of residents on all sites	561
No. of inspections made	223
No. of nuisances investigated	22
No. of nuisances remedied	21

The majority of the multiple sites have been kept in a reasonable state. There have been problems involving effluent discharges and defective drains. Most of these were cleared up.

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of licences issued as renewals	66
No. of new licences issued	5
Total number of licences in force	71
No. of tanks and pipe lines tested	5

SWIMMING BATHS

Although there are no public swimming baths as such, there is one swimming pool attached to Brampton Primary School and one under construction at Sawtry Village College. In the case of that at Sawtry, members of other organized clubs will be permitted to use the pool. Water samples have been taken from the Brampton pool which proved to be satisfactory. Samples will be taken from the Sawtry pool when it is fully operational.

RIVER AND STREAMS

No pollution of rivers and streams have been reported during the year.

PESTS ACT, 1949

Inspections

No. of houses inspected and reinspected	991
No. of agricultural inspections and reinspections	539
No. of business premises inspected and reinspected	98
No. of L.A. properties inspected (excluding council houses)	79
Total No. of inspections and reinspections	1,707

Treatments

No. of houses treated and retreated	499
No. of agricultural treatments and retreatments	318
No. of business premises treated and retreated	79
No. of L.A. properties treated (excluding council houses) ...	62
Total No. of treatments and retreatments	958

Enforcement

No. of statutory notices served under Sec. 4	Nil

The number of contracts operating is 33. So far as this service is concerned it has worked very smoothly and, from the comments received, quite efficiently. No infestations of a serious nature were observed nor has any evidence of warfarin resistance been apparent.

DISINFECTION

No cases of an infectious disease were reported for disinfection.

PUBLIC HEALTH HYGIENE REGULATIONS

There is improvement generally throughout premises subject to the regulations and there is evidence that owners and occupiers are much more aware of the principles of food hygiene. Further consultations took place on the improvement of facilities in licensed premises and full co-operation has been given by the breweries concerned.

BAKEHOUSES

No. in the district	2
No. of inspections	14

General conditions in these bakehouses are satisfactory.

NUISANCES

Abated as a result of informal action	158
Abated as a result of Statutory action	Nil

Analysis of nuisances	*No.*	*No. of Inspections*
Premises	102	193
Accumulations of Refuse	4	12
Foul ditches	5	7
Drains	47	112

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No. of Slaughter Houses on register	1
No. of visits for the inspection of meat to—	
Slaughter House	112
Shops	37
Stalls	Nil
Vehicles	23

FOOD PREMISES

General Stores	Cafes	Butchers	Licensed Premises	Bakehouses
31	6	5	30	2

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	42
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausage	5
No. of inspections	61

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*	*Horses*
Number killed (if known) ...	107	18	—	333	291	—
Number inspected	107	18	—	333	291	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	6	Nil	2	12	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	7·47	33·33	Nil	1·20	4·46	Nil
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1·71	Nil
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION

Although there is no problem in carrying out inspections following slaughter outside of normal office hours, it would be difficult to carry out ante-mortem inspections, since animals are brought in on Sunday for early slaughtering each Monday. Regular slaughtering is carried out on Mondays and Tuesdays and occasionally on Wednesday.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Total number of outbreaks	3
Number of cases	163
Number of deaths	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

No. on Register	23
Inspections	49
Contraventions found	2
Contraventions remedied	2
Formal notices	Nil

SCRAP YARDS

Concern has been expressed at the unsightliness of two scrap yards in the area, one at Bythorn and one at Molesworth. The scrap yards are mainly used for stripping scrapped motor vehicles. The problem is one of disposal and the accumulation of vehicle body shells piled on top of each other becomes untidy and unsightly. Action has been taken, and is still under review by the County Planning Authority.

NAMING OF STREETS AND NUMBERING OF HOUSES

Following an application from the Leighton Parish Council for the naming of streets and numbering of houses, a list of suggested names was submitted to and adopted by the Rural Council. An effort is being made to have the black and white nameplates attached to oak backboards and posts to harmonise with the appearance of the village.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—**

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 523

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 611

(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 33

(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 146

2. **Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—**

(*a*) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants ... 133

(*b*) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit with the assistance of Improvement Grants 36

3. **Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**

(A)—Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957 : —

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : —

(*a*) By owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts : —

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : —

(*a*) By owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(C)—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1957, & Sections 10(1) & 11(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 : —

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	32
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	40
(3)	Number of houses closed during the year ...	3
(4)	Number of families displaced during the year	10

(D)—Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957 : —

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

(E)—Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 : —

CLEARANCE AREAS : —

(1)	Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	Nil
(2)	Total number of houses included in (1) above	Nil
(3)	Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil
(5)	Number of families displaced during the year	Nil
(6)	Number of houses demolished during the year	Nil

4. **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding**

(*a*)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	5
	(ii) Number of families therein	5
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	30
(*b*)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(*c*)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	6
(*d*)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(*e*)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(*a*) *Discretionary Grants*

17 houses have been improved with the assistance of discretionary grants. The total amount of grant being £5,532.

(*b*) *Standard Grants*

19 houses have been improved with the assistance of standard grants. The total amount of grant being £2,143.

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for certificates of disrepair have been received and no action taken under the above Act.

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED — 1964

Parish	Houses		Bungalows		Flats	Total
	Private	R.D.C.	Private	R.D.C.	R.D.C.	
Abbots Ripton	1	—	—	—	—	1
Alconbury	—	—	1	—	—	1
Brampton	29	6	20	—	4	59
Brington and Molesworth	—	—	1	—	—	1
Buckworth	1	—	—	—	—	1
Conington	—	—	2	—	—	2
Easton	1	—	2	—	—	3
Leighton	—	—	—	6	—	6
Sawtry	2	—	20	—	4	26
The Stukeleys	1	—	8	4	—	13
Upton and Coppingford	1	—	—	—	—	1
Upwood and The Raveleys	3	—	—	—	—	3
Winwick	1	—	—	—	—	1
Woodwalton	—	—	2	—	—	2
	40	6	56	10	8	120

WATER SUPPLIES

Full control of the water supplies is now in the hands of the Nene and Ouse Water Board.

The Huntingdonshire County Council and the District Council both decided in favour of the flouridation of water supplies.

Bacteriological Examinations on TREATED Water

Scheme	*Total No. of Samples*	*No. Satisfactory*	*No. Unsatisfactory*
Regional	8	8	Nil
Brampton	6	6	Nil
Gidding & Molesworth	7	7	Nil

There are no public standpipes in the district.

B. R. DIXON, M.P.H.I.A.